

House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

Rep. Alberts Secures Children's Arts Grant



Performing Arts of Northeast Connecticut, has received a \$6,000 state grant secured by State Rep. Mike Alberts, R-50th District, Brooklyn, Eastford, Hampton, Pomfret, Woodstock.

Rep. Alberts said the funds will help bring professional theater, opera, dance and musical performances to a school-aged population. The group treats fifth grade students in a 24-town radius to an in-school arts education program followed by a free, fully staged, professional opera.

“This is a much needed grant to help bring arts and culture to young people in our area,” said Rep. Alberts. “I am pleased to play a small part, and I thank Governor Jodi Rell and her administration are making these funds available”.

“For many of these children, this is the only live, professional music experience they have ever had,” said Rep. Alberts.

On Wednesday, April 6, the organization presented The Magic Flute by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart at the Hyde Cultural Center in Woodstock, where 1,000 students attended each of two performances by Boston Lyric Opera/Opera New England. Performances also were given at Mansfield Middle School.

Betty Hale, director of the all-volunteer Performing Arts of Northeast Connecticut organization, said the group is its 31st season of presenting children's educational programs.

She said, “We have been running a children's educational opera program in 24 towns with free performances in addition to in school tours where performer explains to children what they are going to see.”

Opera New England of Northeastern Connecticut Inc. is now doing business as Performing Arts of Northeast Connecticut, P.O. Box 75, Pomfret, CT 06258. This volunteer, non-profit organization has been bringing professional performances to Hyde Cultural Center 150 Route 169 Woodstock, CT, for the past 31 years.

Ms. Hale said, “Our main trust is our free Children's Educational Opera program. We have brought the performing arts to over 115,000 children from 24 towns.”

The program features: Study Guides, In-School Artists Program and Daytime Opera Performances by the Boston Lyric Opera/Opera New England.

She said local organizer Sara Caldwell and Opera Boston started the program in 1974 as an outreach program, though Opera Boston is no Longer in existence.

Founded in 1976, Boston Lyric Opera bills itself as North America’s fastest-growing opera company, offers a complete season of fully staged opera featuring debuts of the world’s most promising young singers, directors, conductors and designers. More than 30,000 people attend its main stage productions, plus an additional 27,000 through education and community programs.